Introduction of Shatabdi express for north-east region

1658. KUMAR DEEPAK DAS: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways has any proposal for introducing Shatabdi Express in North Eastern Region;

(b) whether his Ministry would propose a Shatabdi Express between New Cooch Bihar district in West Bengal and Nagaon district in Assam considering the historical importance and tourism Development at Borodwa, Satra, Barpeta Satra, Madhupur Satra, etc., where thousands of pilgrims visit these places every year; and

(c) whether Railways has proposed to consider the long pending demand of the public and take necessary steps to modernize the Bijni Railway station with all the standard facilities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) No, Sir.

Development of Surat-Hazira railway line

1659. SHRI SURENDRA MOTILAL PATEL:
SHRI JAYANTILAL BAROT:
SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any project for development of Surat-Hazira railway line is under consideration of Government;

(b) if so, the status regarding financial contribution among different stakeholders/ companies for this project; and

(c) whether Government contemplate to allocate more funds to Rail Vikas Nigam Ltd. (RVNL)?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Financial Model of this project has not yet been finalized.

(c) Funds are being allocated to Rail Vikas Nigam Ltd. (RVNL) continuously. In the Budget for the year 2008-09, it has been proposed to allot Rs. 1535 crore to RVNL under different Plan Heads.

Pending water supply projects

1660. SHRI JAYANTILAL BAROT:
SHRI SURENDRA MOTILAL PATEL:
SHRI KESHUBHAI S. PATEL:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that several proposals for permissions of railway crossings for various water supply projects are pending with Railway authorities; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?